

# PATENT APPLICATION

#3/A  
9-4-01  
8M

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Greg HETHERINGTON  
Filed : with an effective filing date of April 22, 1998  
For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
Group Art Unit : PROCESSING FREE-FORMAT DATA  
Examiner : 2172  
Docket : Ella Colbert  
 : GRIHAC P22AUSD1

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

## **FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

By way of preliminary amendment, please amend the above identified application as set forth below.

### **In the Specification:**

Please cancel the first full paragraph on page 28 of the specification, in its entirety, in favor of a clean form of the first full paragraph on page 28 of the specification, without any markings thereon, as follows. Also accompanying this Preliminary Amendment is a copy of the original paragraphs of the specification which show the addition(s) (by underlining) and the deletion(s) (by brackets) to the canceled specification paragraph. Please enter the replacement specification paragraph into the record of this case.

## **In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1 - 53, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, in favor of new claims 54 - 106 as follows.

### In the Abstract:

Please cancel the Abstract of the Disclosure, presently on file, and enter into the record of this application the new Abstract of the Disclosure typed on a separate sheet and accompanying this Preliminary Amendment.